

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: LA GRECA, Gaetano

SERIAL NO.: (International Appn No. PCT/EP03/04061)

FILED: (Intl. Filing Date 17 April 2003)

TITLE: BACKPACK ATTACHMENT FOR IMPROVED DISTRIBUTION OF THE
BACKPACK WEIGHT ACROSS A USER'S SHOULDERS

Preliminary Amendment: ABSTRACT AMENDMENTS

On page 13, please amend the paragraph as follows:

A backpack attachment is provided for use with backpacks that have a bag-like body and a pair of shoulder straps, in particular backpacks used by school attendants, which is effective to distribute the backpack weight in a rationalized fashion across a user's shoulders. The attachment ~~comprises~~ includes essentially two curved members ~~(1)~~ arranged to stiffen substantially the sections of the shoulder straps ~~(T)~~ that lie closest to the upper region of the bag-like body ~~(ES)~~. These members may replace or be associated with ~~said~~ sections of the shoulder straps ~~(T)~~, and ~~consist of~~ include a pair of substantially inflexible curved members being each a one-piece construction ~~(2, 2A)~~, or ~~consist of~~ several pieces ~~(6, 11)~~ jointed to one another. In a preferred embodiment, the attachment ~~comprises~~ includes a pair of members formed each of several pieces ~~(11)~~ which can be associated detachably to the shoulder straps ~~(T)~~, at least one ~~(14)~~ of them in a locked fashion.